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OW Management Report

Gold King Mine Release and Typhoons Soudelor/Goni

August 17, 2015

Gold King Mine Release

Background:

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. The EPA is working closely with responders and local, state and tribal officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of the EPA's regions - Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation). EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. The EPA has also set up an incident command center in Durango, CO. The EPA is coordinating with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Response Coordination:

The EPA HQ EOC is now fully activated. Shifts will be 9:30 AM – 7 PM, Seven days a week. David Goldbloom-Helzner will staff the desk August 20, and Brian Pickard will staff the desk August 18, 19 and 21.

On August 14, 2015, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) lifted the ban on the use of private domestic water wells. NMED also issued advisories to flush irrigation ditches as a safety precaution prior to resuming irrigation for agriculture and livestock.

On August 15, 2015, New Mexico lifted the ban on using the Animas and San Juan Rivers to supply the San Juan County's drinking water systems. Until the New Mexico Game and Fish can determine the level of contamination in fish, it strongly recommends that anglers do not eat the fish they catch.

In an August 14, 2015 press release from the City of Durango, Colorado, the City resumed pumping raw water for drinking water treatment and distribution after independent sampling results supported such a decision. The City has also lifted the outdoor irrigation restrictions.

EPA Activities:

Region 8:

The CDPHE, and public water systems regulated by CDPHE in the impacted area, are taking raw and finished water samples to monitor water quality. CDPHE is coordinating with City of Durango drinking water treatment staff regarding the Animas River intake. It was not in use at the time of the event and has been off-line pending water quality assessment with CDPHE and completion of irrigation canal flushing.

CDPHE has 7 staff in area and continued collecting the Animas River surface water and sediment sampling. Also continued outreach to public water supply system operators. Public system operators are continuing normal testing of their systems.

In response to requests from nine residents, one the EPA sampling teams will be working with the Southern Ute trip sampling private drinking water wells. Durango area operations are conducting more ditch survey work. Irrigation ditches in the southern area of the Animas in Colorado that had minimal staining will be flushing and potentially opening today.

Region 6:

NMED informed EPA that the Town of Morningstar's reserve had dropped drastically and the Town only had an estimated 48 hours of available supply, as of August 14, 2015. EPA acted quickly to mobilize a temporary pump to facilitate an emergency connection between Farmington and Morningstar. Morningstar and Farmington are completing the connection between their water systems -current

plans are to complete this task the morning of August 17, 2015. The water system operators will complete the connections and will operate the system once functional.

On August 15, 2015, EPA began transporting and offloading raw water into Morningstar's pretreatment settling ponds. Seven trucks were dedicated to delivering raw water to Morningstar. It is not expected to significantly reduce the need for additional water supply. Morningstar was very appreciative of EPA's quick response and assistance.

The HQ Environmental Unit (EU) continues to assist with data validation. Daily residential sampling continues. Animas River sediment samples were posted to the incident website on 8/14. No results exceeded recreational screening levels. On August 15, 2015, EPA released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico.

At this time the private drinking water well sampling effort is completed.

Region 9:

- **R9 is conducting surface water sampling and sediment sampling along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites**
- **Surface water and sediment sampling was conducted at Lake Powell on August 15, 2015.**
- **The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has initiated sampling of the three wells at Montezuma Creek and at the intake of the Mexican Hat surface water plant.**
- **EPA (R9) is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas served by wells on the NTUA – Montezuma Creek public water system which was shut down as a precaution**

- EPA (R9) continues to provide over 50,000 gallons of water per day to designated distribution areas identified by NTUA.
- Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured and will be continuing to deliver water to designated locations.
- On 8/14 the State of Utah lifted their advisories for Utah Crop Irrigation and Livestock Watering

Infrastructure Impacts:

Region 6:

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems:

System Name	Population
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800
Farmington Water System	47000
Lower Valley WUA	8428
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423
Northstar WDWCA	4123
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593
Upper La Plata WUA	2265
Flora Vista	4300
Total Population	80,392

Sampling Results: EPA continues to post sampling results on the public website <http://www2epa.gov/goldkingmine>

Typhoon Soudelor/Goni

Weather is still windy. Operations at Commonwealth Utility Corporation (CUC) have generally restarted. Water Task Force out today to assess anew the status of water and wastewater services.

CUC: Water Distribution Recovery Summary:

- USACE did begin to reconnect, fuel and start the generators, taking 1 hour per generator, making progress very slow.
- Chalan Kiya has 24-hour water distribution.
- Navy Hill tank, fed by Calhoun wells with a CUC generator, still providing water to hospital.
- Intermittent water distribution to other villages continued today.

Water Testing:

- Lab is now operating at half capacity (30/samples per day) and the Water Task Force teams collected samples for bacteriological analysis (results available tomorrow).
- 19 Coliform samples taken at 17 smaller and operational public water systems, including 5 operational bottled water companies. Results will be reported tomorrow.

Emergency Water Distribution:

- CUC filling stations: 4 sites at As Teo, Kanat Tabla, Capital Hill, and Navy Hill opened 12pm-7pm
- USMC drinking water distribution scheduled to demobilize tomorrow, 8/18.

Bottled water:

- 8/16-8/17 Water Task Force revisited 14 bottled water and ice companies to survey operational status.
 - There has been a setback in operational capacity since the storm passed through and there was an interruption in CUC water delivery.

Mass Care:

- No water issues reported at Mass Care meeting.

Wastewater:

- There have been minor wastewater spills at lift stations W-8, S-8 and SR-2
- USACE worked on generators for lift stations today

Lift Stations SR-2 and S-9 are operational